



RUSSELL

Hampden County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Russell, which recently celebrated its bicentennial, is one of the hill towns which have evolved in the foothills of the Berkshires. Russell's early development was closely tied to water power. Its many brooks feeding into the Westfield River were the early sites of saw mills, leather tanneries and other small businesses and farms. With the industrial revolution came major changes in the essentially rural village as three paper mills were built on the Westfield River in Russell. Most of the residents worked at one of the mills. Today all three mills are still operating but no longer are all employees residents of Russell. The beauty of Russell is easily appreciated by driving along Jacob's Ladder Trail, which is Route 20. The river twists and turns with the road following it. Mountains soar on either side of the river bank. Because of the rugged terrain, much of Russell has been left in a natural state. The spring run-off brings out the white water enthusiasts. The Westfield River Canoe races have been held here for 40 years and this year for the first time, the Towns of Russell and Huntington hosted the National White Water Races.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Montgomery on the north, Westfield on the east, Granville on the south, Blandford on the west, and Huntington on the northwest. Russell is about 18 miles west of Springfield, 107 miles west of Boston, and 155 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 17.88 sq. miles

Land Area: 17.56 sq. miles

Population: 1,594

Density: 91 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Woronoco, Blandford, Southwick, West Granville

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 862-3265

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1792

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	860		
Democrats	157	18.3	%
Republicans	201	23.4	%
Other parties	2	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	500	58.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Russell town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,657	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,657	100.0
Male.....	828	50.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	25	1.5
Female.....	829	50.0	Mexican.....	3	0.2
Under 5 years.....	104	6.3	Puerto Rican.....	17	1.0
5 to 9 years.....	107	6.5	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	139	8.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	5	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	137	8.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,632	98.5
20 to 24 years.....	76	4.6	White alone.....	1,603	96.7
25 to 34 years.....	205	12.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	310	18.7	Total population.....	1,657	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	264	15.9	In households.....	1,657	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	90	5.4	Householder.....	611	36.9
60 to 64 years.....	57	3.4	Spouse.....	387	23.4
65 to 74 years.....	103	6.2	Child.....	546	33.0
75 to 84 years.....	53	3.2	Own child under 18 years.....	411	24.8
85 years and over.....	12	0.7	Other relatives.....	43	2.6
Median age (years).....	36.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	14	0.8
18 years and over.....	1,224	73.9	Nonrelatives.....	70	4.2
Male.....	608	36.7	Unmarried partner.....	37	2.2
Female.....	616	37.2	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	1,147	69.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	198	11.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	168	10.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	74	4.5	Total households.....	611	100.0
Female.....	94	5.7	Family households (families).....	482	78.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	226	37.0
One race.....	1,642	99.1	Married-couple family.....	387	63.3
White.....	1,615	97.5	With own children under 18 years.....	166	27.2
Black or African American.....	7	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	68	11.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	43	7.0
Asian.....	5	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	129	21.1
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	106	17.3
Chinese.....	1	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	34	5.6
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	236	38.6
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	127	20.8
Korean.....	4	0.2	Average household size.....	2.71	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.02	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	641	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	611	95.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	30	4.7
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	7	1.1
Some other race.....	10	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	15	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	9.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	611	100.0
White.....	1,629	98.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	498	81.5
Black or African American.....	7	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	113	18.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.71	(X)
Asian.....	8	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.73	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	15	0.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Russell is situated in the Pioneer Valley Region, which is known as the crossroads of New England, due to its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), which is easily accessible at the interchange in neighboring Westfield; U.S. Route 20; and State Route 23, an E-W road that connects Russell to Great Barrington.

Rail

There is no passenger service in Russell, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible. Conrail provides freight service to Russell. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Russell is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service, but FRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Huntington Council on Aging.

Other

Barnes Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 5,000' x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.